

REMARKS

Status of the Application

Claims 1-5 and 7-70 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 8, 10-40, 43-47, 49, 54 and 57-62 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-5, 7, 9, 41, 42, 48, 50-53, 55, 56 and 63-70 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Swayze (U.S. 6,519,003) in view of Hirose (U.S. 4,987,279).

By this Amendment, Applicants are amending claims 1, 9, 41, 42 and 52.

Claim Rejection -- 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-5, 7, 9, 41, 42, 48, 50-53, 55, 56 and 63-70 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Swayze (U.S. 6,519,003) in view of Hirose (U.S. 4,987,279).

Amended claim 1 recites, in part, “the display part displays information related to a first operation mode … when the mode switch is set to the first operation mode, whereas displaying information related to a second operation mode when the mode switch is set to the second operation mode.” The Examiner alleges that Swayze teaches or suggests all of the elements of claim 1, with the exception of “wherein the instruction input unit includes a display part.” However, the Examiner alleges that Hirose teaches or suggests the elements that Swayze fails to disclose. Applicants would respectfully disagree.

The Examiner concedes that Swayze fails to teach or suggest a display part which displays information relating to a first or second operation mode depending on the setting of the mode switch. Applicants further submit that Hirose fails to cure the defects noted in Swayze. Hirose teaches a push button switch provided with a design display portion (on the switch itself)

and an illumination portion. However, Hirose fails to teach or suggest a display part which displays information relating to a first operation mode when the mode switch is set for a first operation mode and displays information relating to a second operation mode when the mode switch is set for a second operation mode.

In the claimed invention, information displayed in the display part changes in accordance with the operation mode selected by a mode switch. Specifically, when the mode switch selects a first operation mode, the display part displays information related to the first operation mode and information related to a function of each switches in the first operation mode, and when the mode switch selects a second operation mode, the display part displays information related to the second operation mode and information related to a function of each switches in the second operation mode.

Therefore, the combination of Swayze and Hirose fail to disclose the all of the elements of claim 1, and therefore, fail to render claim 1 obvious. Claim 1 is patentable over the applied art.

Claims 2-5, 7, 66 and 67 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency from amended claim 1.

Amended claims 9, 41, 42 and 52 recite similar limitations to amended claim 1. Therefore, for reasons analogous to those presented with respect to amended claim 1, claims 9, 41, 42 and 52 are patentable over the applied art. Claims 48, 50, 51, 53, 55, 56, 63-65 and 68-70 are patentable at least by virtue of their respective dependencies.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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